

# The Organizer.

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## POETRY.

### LOVE NEVER SLEEPS.

Love never sleeps! The mother's eye,  
Bends o'er her dying infant's bed;  
And as she marks the moments fly,  
When death keeps on with noiseless tread,  
Faint and distressed she sits and weeps,  
With beating heart, Love never sleeps.

Yet e'en that sad and fragile form,  
Forgets the impacts of her breast;  
Despite the horrors of the storm,  
O'er hardened nature sinks to rest;  
But o'er them both another keeps  
His midnight watch, Love never sleeps.

Around—above—the angel bands,  
Sloop o'er the careless sons of men;  
With pitying eyes and eager hands  
They raise the soul to hope again.  
Free as the air their pity sleeps  
The storm of Time! Love never sleeps.

Around—beneath—and above all,  
O'er men and angels, earth and heaven,  
A higher bends! the slightest call  
Is answered, and relief is given,  
In hours of woe, when sorrow sleeps  
The heart in pain, He never sleeps.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### Meeting of the Citizens of Central Mississippi. REPORT.

The committee to whom was referred the subject of controversy between the Northern and Southern States of the Union, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report the following as an address to the citizens of Mississippi, together with the accompanying resolutions.

The subject was approached by them, as it should be by this meeting, in full view of its solemnity and importance. Not as a common place topic—not as a mere question of expediency on a matter of secondary consideration, but as one in which our dearest rights are involved, rights which we possessed as citizens of independent States, and which are reserved to us by the constitution of the United States. In our action on this important subject, it is the dictate of prudence that we should place ourselves on that foundation which may be furnished us by the aid of calm and deliberate reason. The time seems to be propitious to dispassionate deliberation. The excitement which was aroused by the effort of our Northern brethren in the last Congress, has passed away, and a temporary calm has succeeded. The poignant sting of fresh wounds has subsided. Reason has swept away the turbulence of passion. We approach the subject not in anger, but in sorrow. We venerate the memory of the illustrious men who cemented us a family of nations, as one people; and we would hold out as an example to their sons, the recollection of the spirit of forbearance—of moderation—of compromise—of equal justice and true patriotism which governed them in their great work. Would that the same spirit could now prevail in the different portions of our Union.

Nor do we agitate unnecessarily this alarming question. We cannot be justly charged with such agitation. Gladly would we see it put to rest forever. But we are admonished by the past what we may expect in the future. On former occasions we have been told, in the recess of Congress, that all cause of alarm had ceased, that the question was at rest, but as often have we been disappointed. At every succeeding session it has been revived with renewed energy and vigor, and with increased friends. We cannot be indifferent to the warning furnished by these examples. We see no abatement of energy in the pursuit of what seems to be a settled design to encroach upon our rights until they shall be destroyed. In the prospect of approaching danger, it becomes us to avert it if possible, but prepare to meet it if it must come. The true patriot will endeavor to ward off the catastrophe which threatens to be fatal to his country, before it does its work of destruction. We have met not only in defence of our individual rights, but in defence of our common country; and we would fondly hope that our timely warning may save our Union unimpaired. We meet not to agitate—not to act, but to prepare for action when the occasion may be forced upon us. We invade not the rights of any.

This much we deemed it proper to say in vindication of the objects and motives of the present meeting. We would briefly turn our attention to the

principles upon which we place our reliance.

An early as 1763, Virginia ceded to the confederation the territory which has since become Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin, on condition that it should be laid off into States which should be admitted into the Union with "the same rights of sovereignty, freedom and independence as the other States." In the Ordinance of 1787, passed by Congress for the government of the Northwestern Territory, was inserted in direct infraction of the deed of cession, a proviso which prohibited African slavery in the ceded territory. The rights of the citizens of that territory were thereby abridged, and a principle engrained into the territorial government at war with the principles of government which prevailed in the States, and which prevented even the citizens of the ceding States from emigrating to the new territory with their property. Although slavery then existed in all the States, the Southern States were more vitally interested in the question and the proviso was more oppressive to them. But in the hope of peace, security and prosperity, under a more stable government (then being formed by which equality of right should be better secured, they too generously yielded to that proviso.

In the Convention which formed the Constitution, the question which is now convulsing the country was a second time raised; it was then fully discussed and understood. The pre-existing rights of the Southern States in their slave property were acknowledged and specifically guarded by that Constitution, which became at once the solemn covenant of the Union of these States, and the potent cause, under Divine Providence, of their subsequent prosperity. The second section of the first article declares that representation and direct taxes shall be apportioned according to numbers, to be determined by adding to the number of white persons, three-fifths of all other persons including slaves. Slaves, then, constitute a basis representation, not confined in its application to any particular portion of the Union, but as a general rule. Can Congress alter or abolish that basis, or limit its operation to the old States? We think not. Slaves were regarded in a double aspect—as persons and as property. We asked to be referred to the clause of the Constitution which gives Congress any control over the property held by the citizens of the States. In the States where slavery exists, we suppose that no one, with ordinary understanding, who knows anything of the structure of the Federal Government, whose mind is unobscured by the polluting clouds of prejudice and bigotry, can believe for a moment that Congress has any power over any description of property. We may surely take this position for granted. But if any should be so rash as to doubt it, a glance at the previous condition of the States, and the purposes and objects of the Constitution, must satisfy every candid mind. Each State was a separate sovereignty, whose government was organized for the protection of life, liberty and property, and having, as every sovereignty must, the exclusive protection of these important subjects. By the Constitution, no powers were given away except such as might be necessary to give us a national character, and a national existence, in our intercourse with foreign nations, and such as might serve to bind us together as a family of republics. The States did not surrender their control over persons and property within their limits; that would have destroyed their identity; and all power not delegated by the Constitution is reserved to the States. The Constitution of the United States does not create a Government with sovereign power, and property is subject alone to the control of a Government having such power. Such control is an important attribute of sovereignty. Indeed the protection to property is the strongest ligament of Government.—The Government created by the Constitution is limited. It must look to the Constitution alone as the charter of its power, and all its actions must be confined within the limits there prescribed. Then no power of interference with property within the States is to be found. This was not one of the evils of the articles of confederation which gave rise to the formation of the Constitution.

But it has been contended, and doubtless will be urged again, that

although this be true as regards the States, still Congress has unlimited power to legislate for the Territories. We shall not now controvert the claim of power; it is no part of our present purpose. But; suppose it be possessed, the question is, how may it be exercised? We answer it must be in strict subordination to the principles of the Constitution. Congress cannot, by any legislation, defeat, qualify, enlarge, or subvert one principle contained in that instrument, because they are cardinal principles in our Union. They constitute the being or essence of Congress, as an organized body, and limit its official power. The principles of government, embraced in the Constitution pervade the whole Union; they are universal. Every man in every State has a common interest in having them faithfully observed.—The territories are common property, subject to be occupied by the people from any portion of the Union, in the same freedom they enjoyed in the States, both as to their persons and their property. If power to legislate for the Territories to the extent claimed is possessed, it may be exercised without limit, unless that limit be found in the Constitution. Legislative power, within the meaning of the Constitution, is a limited power, confined to particular subjects, which can only be exercised in subordination to certain great principles. This is the extent to which legislative power is conferred on Congress; all beyond it is usurpation. Suppose there should be slaves in any of the new Territories, would an act of Congress prohibiting slavery produce immediate emancipation? Such would be the unlimited power to legislate. Has Congress the power to say what is or what is not property in the Territory belonging to the people of the United States, or to regulate the amount they may acquire, or to take from the citizens there that which they really possess? Such a power does not belong to any regular government on earth. We repeat that no power has been given to Congress over property within the States, and no power can be exercised over it in the Territories, detrimental to the unqualified rights of their owners. As well might Congress prescribe an established religion for the Territories, and require every citizen and emigrant to conform to it. That is legislative power in its largest sense, but it is not the description of legislative power conferred by the Constitution.

Thus stands, as your committee think, the claim of right asserted for Congress. Nor are these ill founded pretensions in the least strengthened by the asserted equality of the African with the white man, and the consequent conclusion that he is not nor should he be regarded as property.—No one whose will and voice entered into the Declaration of Independence, or the national constitution, believed that the Africans in service were born the equals of the Caucasian race. The people of the northern States do not now believe it. They treat the negroes amongst them not as equals in any sense, but as degraded beings, far below them in the scale of creation. Slavery has existed in all ages of the world and amongst all nations, savage and civilized, with very few exceptions. It originated not in a positive or statute law, as has been said, it must exist, if it exist at all, but by a universal law of conquest, which the God of nature gave to his highest work, to hold dominion and power over the inferior things of his creation.—"Where we ask, is the municipal, or positive law, as it has been called, that authorized the founders of the Jewish Empire to hold slaves? By what law was it that the African was bought and sold, and held in perpetual bondage in classic Greece and imperial Rome? And by what authority was it that the modern nations of continental Europe engaged so largely in the slave trade? It was by that universal principle of dominion which constitutes an element in the nature of man, impressed on him by his Creator. Even England, which now boasts that to touch English soil is to break the shackles of slavery, was once a dealer in slaves. Where did her favorite virgin Queen find an act of Parliament which authorized her to share the profits of an expedition in the slave trade? There was no positive law which authorized it, nor did a law of prohibition originate in the Parliament House. British judges usurped the power of the legislature, and declared that universal

freedom pervaded English soil; and we have reason to fear that their example will find followers in our own land. The right of property in slaves has met a universal recognition.—We deny that the service to which the negro is subjected with us, is an injury to him or a detriment to us. To clothe, feed and protect them, and compel them by moderate labor to earn such subsistence and care, is to do for them what they would not do for themselves. All experience has shown that their best, their happiest, and most elevated condition is in servitude. Out of it they degenerate into vice and ignominy which degrade the form they wear. It is the place assigned them by the God of nature in the great scheme of creation.

But the people of the Northern States do not stop at asserting a right to abolish slavery in the territories. They seem to hold in utter disregard that provision in the constitution which authorizes the owner to recapture his fugitive slave wherever he may be found. This is a provision which can admit of no dispute, and its violation can admit of no excuse. This is not fidelity to their government, which is one of the duties of christianity, in the name of which they profess to act.—How unlike the example set them by the apostle Paul, in sending home to Philomen his runaway slave, imploring for him forgiveness. We lament their misguided zeal, their false philanthropy, and in the name of our common country we implore them to beware, lest they drive us to extremities which will be fatal in their results. It is not for them to determine whether slavery is a blessing or a curse to us. That question we reserve to ourselves. And whilst they may profess not to interfere with it here, yet we cannot be mistaken as to the ultimate end which they desire to accomplish. The delegation from this State in the last Congress, with entire unanimity, have given the history of the progressive encroachments on our rights, and have pointed out the evils to be apprehended. As faithful sentinels they have warned us of approaching danger, and are entitled to our approbation. As citizens of a Southern State, it becomes us to vindicate the sovereignty of that State, and it is proper that the whole South should act with unanimity. The legislature of Virginia, in March, 1847, passed resolutions condemning the Wilmot Proviso, and asserting the rights of the Southern States; and again in January, 1849, by an overwhelming vote, affirmed the resolutions of 1847, and passed others protesting against any action of Congress on the slave trade and slavery in the District of Columbia. Those resolutions clearly and forcibly set forth the constitutional rights of the south, and we would give them our most unqualified concurrence. We cannot but regard any legislation by congress, either past or to come, which in any degree, either directly or remotely, may seem to give sanction to the authority of that body over the subject, as void for want of power, and in its tendency destructive of the principles of the Union which should be held inviolable in every feature. But whilst we thus broadly assert our constitutional right, it will be with our people to say whether they will meet our brethren of the North in good faith, should be tendered, in carrying out the Missouri compromise; not as a matter of intrinsic obligation, but by common consent of the people. We deny most positively its legal validity as an act of legislation. A constitutional principle admits of no compromise by Congress. To compromise was to assert and to exercise the right to do so, and the consequent right to legislate on the subject, which we utterly deny.

Your committee have thus endeavored to point out and maintain our rights, and to show the extent of the injury threatened, but do not feel authorized, representing as they do but a small portion of the state to prescribe the course, which should be pursued by the people of the whole State. It is a question of State Sovereignty, on which the people of the whole state should speak, and let their voice be heard also through the Legislature, the organized representative of state sovereignty. We therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolutions.

Resolved, That it is most important to obtain a general expression of the will, understanding and voice of our fellow-citizens of Mississippi upon the

issue presented in relation to the Territories of the United States, and the question of domestic slavery.

Resolved, That to that end we respectfully but solemnly recommend to them to hold immediately, in each and all of the counties, a primary meeting of the citizens respectively, for the choice of delegates to meet in convention at the capitol on the first Monday in October next, in order to express in a more explicit and concentrated form, the will, understanding and voice of the whole of this State.

Resolved, That as the controversy involved is one on which it is impossible that any party differences in this State can exist, and in order to prevent any undue assumption, or suspicion on this score, we urge it as proper and necessary, that there should be an equal number of each of the great political parties in the delegates so to be chosen, and that to effect that object, the delegation ought to be double that of the representation of the State, in the House of Representatives.

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### Ringling for his Boots.

#### LUDICROUS SCENE ON A STEAMBOAT.

On the last trip of the New-England, No. 2, there were two verdant young men in state-room 29, from old Virginia, Shenandoah co. 10th legion!! bound for California!!!

They came on board at Pittsburgh, brought their gold washer, shovel, and pick, took their state-room and deposited their plunder.

The boat went on her way quietly, occasionally giving a note or two on her steam whistle, which made the two "anterrified" of the 10th start.

"I be dogged," says one, "if that ain't the screamer we've heard of up in old Shan. They have lots of them on this river, they say."

"I say, Dave, don't they charge a d—l of a price for a drink on this here boat—10 cents without sugar; but it's all owing to the cholera coming up the river, it's made feller scarce, so the bar-keeper says; if it keeps on getting dearer and dearer as we go on, it will cost a quarter a nip at Fort Independence."

"Why, Bill, you are green—why can't you go on the outside, and take your lick through the window—it's only a tip there. Come on, less go and spend a dime, we can afford it."

The adventurers took their horn and turned in for the night.

About half after six in the morning, the engine bell rung to work her slow. She worked on a few minutes, and the bell rung to back. She commenced backing, and had backed about a hundred yards when the pilot rung to go ahead. Ahead she shot, and had made a quarter of a mile, when the two bells rang together.

The engineer was now out of patience, and called out through the speaking trumpet, "What do you want?"

"What is the matter with the engine?" says the pilot.

"Nothing," says the engineer, "but you'd rang the latboard bell."

"I have rung no bells since we left, except for you to go ahead."

"You are ringing now," said the engineer.

"I am not," says the pilot, "you don't know the rings from the pokers on the grate bars. You are tight."

"Tight, the d—l! you are tight yourself. You don't know the bell, pulls from the spokes in the wheel."

"The thunder I don't. I belong to the Sons—I do!"

Capt. Dean, who had been standing in the pilot house, started down to find out the cause of the bell-ringing. He opened the door into 29, and there was one of the Virginians pulling away at the bell ropes that led through his room from the pilot house to the engineer.

"I say, Dave, ain't these the funniest bells you ever saw?—They ain't like tavern bells—there you pull the strings down—here they pull them up."

"Jingle, jingle, went the bells again. "Ring and be d—d," said the engineer, "I shan't stop her."

"Gentlemen," asked the Captain, "do you know what you are doing?"

"Yes I do, boss! I have been ringing this half hour to have the servant bring back our boots—and he must be deaf if he can't hear these bells."

"There are no bells here for the waiter, my dear sir, these are to stop and start the engine by, and you might do us serious injury by pulling

these ropes. You must not do it any more."

these ropes. You must not do it any more."

"Well, Dave, you see Dr. Smith don't know every thing. Didn't he tell us to pull the strings when we wanted any thing, and the servants would come. Maybe we ain't green. Say, Captain, what is the damage?" The Captain vamosed.—*Cin. Com.*

### Mississippi and Pacific Railroad.

The great desideratum of our country, in a commercial point of view, is at this moment a safe, expeditious, and uninterrupted communication with California. We have already treated this subject speculatively, in comparing the advantages of the various routes taken by emigrants, and those projected by different parties representing different interests throughout the country. That it is by railway this communication is to be effected, seems, by the general concurrence of opinion, to admit of no dispute; and the point to be ascertained is, which of all the routes proposed will secure the greatest facilities for carrying out the scheme. The projectors of the Memphis convention have taken a judicious step toward the practical resolution of this question, and we comply with their request in calling attention to the circular published in the Memphis Herald, of the 21st ult., by a corresponding committee of the citizens of the United States, inviting all who feel an interest in the subject to meet in a convention to be held on the fourth of July next in the city of Memphis. Here will be discussed the merits of each route that has been submitted for the consideration of the public, and an endeavor be made to settle down on the one which embraces the greatest advantages, thereby to insure concerted action. This is the proper mode, if we wish to accelerate the construction of a railroad to the Pacific. As it is to be a great national work, the benefits of which are to be participated in by all, sectional prejudices, local considerations, and every species of private bias should be cast to the winds, in order that nothing may obscure the magnitude of the enterprise—that all may look at it without a shade, and with a single eye to its earliest practicable realization. Although the subject is not new to our readers, we recur to it because it possesses inherent claims upon their attention, and should not be overlooked.

We trust that the convention at Memphis will be numerous, attended by delegates from East, West, South, and North, and that its deliberations may lead to the adoption of some definite plan, which by the powerful interests it shall embrace, will cause immediate action by our legislators at the next meeting of Congress. Our own city, of all others in the Union, should be represented by competent men. They should be selected at an early day to give time to the delegates to prepare themselves for the proper discharge of their duties. To nominate just on the eve of the assembling of the convention a few gentlemen who may chance to be travelling up the river, or may be willing to visit Memphis on a pleasure excursion, is not the mode of obtaining the influence in that body which should readily be conceded to New Orleans if she were adequately represented. We need men of science, of enlarged practical views and sound sense—men whose opinions will command respect, irrespective of their position as delegates—and with such a representation, the voice of New Orleans will be potential in the convention, as it should be when reference is had to the immense stake which this city has in every mode of communication between the Pacific and the Gulf of Mexico.—*N. O. Picayune.*

### AN EXTRAORDINARY CHURN.

Loughable things sometimes happen in Benwick. The "patent churn" just now is all the rage. The other day, a certain equize, who shall be nameless, was showing the gaping crowd of natives the great wonders of his butter-making machine. While grinding out the butter and sending long yards, like the antiquated, strutting jacob, with various explanations, a mischievous wag slipped a dab of soap slyly into the milk. Soon the equize commenced frothing and filled the churn to overflowing, but no butter.

"You see," said the ever ready expounder of mysteries as he passed to catch breath, "whether butter comes or not, it makes three times as much butter-milk as any other churn!"